body meeting of the Vikramasingapuram Harvey Mills Employees' Co-operative Stores recommending an amendment to the by-laws regarding election to the Board of Directors; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Registrar rejected the amendments."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" May I know why the amendment has been rejected? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is considered wrong in principle to admit representatives of labour unions as nominees to the Board. Leaders of workers should be selected as members of the stores in their individual capacity and not as representatives of labour unions."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" What is the resolution, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The existing provisions of the by-laws provide for the nomination of labour union representatives."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that there are representatives of capitalists in co-operative societies—at least in some societies—in the State and so, is there any reason why representatives of labour should be refused representation? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be asked."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Under the existing provisions, one representative of the mill management and one of the labour union are nominated and three members are elected. Now the general body of the co-operative society has made a recommendation to the Registrar that the by-law should be amended so as to constitute the Board of Directors like this—one representative of the mill management and two representatives of the labour union to be nominated and four other directors to be elected. May I know why the Government have rejected this resolution of the general body? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already stated the reasons. The Government have permitted the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to delete the by-law providing for the nomination of representatives of the labour union."

Development of the Laccadive and Amindivi Islands.

* 784 *Q*.—SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE (on behalf of Sri A. Appu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) what orders have been passed on the report submitted by the Special Officer Sri S. Y. Krishnaswami, I.C.S., in March 1952 on the possibility of developing Laccadive and Amindivi Islands; and

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(*b*) how many dispensaries there are in the islands and how many of them remain closed for want of doctors?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The recommendations contained in the report of the Special Inspecting Officer of the Laccadive and Amindivi Islands are under scrutiny of the several departments of the Government and orders will be passed in due course.

" (*b*) There are five Government dispensaries at Minicoy, Androth, Kavarathi, Kalpeni and Amindivi islands on the West Coast. At present posts of Medical Officers are vacant at Minicoy, Androth and Kalpeni islands. The Director of Medical Services has posted Assistant Surgeons to all these islands and they will be taking charge shortly."

MR. SPEAKER :—" A similar question came up for answer yesterday."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that illicit distillation of arrack is going on in these islands and if so, whether the executive officers are responsible for giving a modern touch to these islands? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That has nothing to do with this question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know in what part of the world these islands lie, for nobody seems to have gone to that place? Will the Government take steps to depute a small commission to visit the islands and investigate the conditions obtaining there? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yesterday, the Hon. Minister replied that he would himself visit the islands."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In what part of the world do they lie? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" He must read gecgraphy." (Laughter.)

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR :—" மந்திரிமார்கள் போன இடங்களுக்கே திரும்பித் திரும்பி போவதற்கு பதிலாக இதுமாதிரியான தீவுக்கு கனம் முதல் மந்திரியாவது அல்லது மற்ற மந்திரிகளாவது சௌகர்யப்பட்டபோது போவார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I said I would try to go."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know whether the Government have under their active consideration the question of starting a steamer service between the islands and the mainland for which the islanders have been clamouring all these years? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That question is being considered."

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SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know whether it is a fact that some of the doctors posted for work in these islands did not go there? If so, may I know what action the Government have taken in the matter?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The doctors have been given a compensatory allowance of Rs. 100 each. Five have offered to go and are actually going."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The whole calamity that has befallen these islanders is due to lack of communication. When cholera and other epidemics are rampant in the islands neither doctors nor sympathisers of the islanders are in a position to reach the place. In view of these facts, will the Hon. Minister urgently consider the question of starting steamer communication to the islands?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That is also under consideration."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" As these two islands seem to be very interesting islands, may I ask the Government to give us facilities for undertaking an excursion of M.L.A.'s to the islands so that after return we may put more supplementary questions?" (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Government said that there are five dispensaries for the benefit of these islanders. May I know whether any of these had remained closed for want of doctors and if so for how long?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I said that doctors have already left and they are there."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether the inclusion of these islands as part of our State is profitable to us or is a drain on our resources?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I cannot say, Sir, now."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்தத் தீவுகளிலிருந்து சர்க்காருக்கு பலன் ஏதாவது இருக்கிறதா என்று கேட்கிறேன் ".

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Nothing can be said now."

Purchase of District Gazette for the use of the Panchayat Board, Badagara.

* 785 *Q*.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the Badagara Panchayat Board for permission to buy the District Gazette for the use of the Panchayat Board; and

(*b*) the orders passed thereon?